LARGE SIZED HAPPINESS

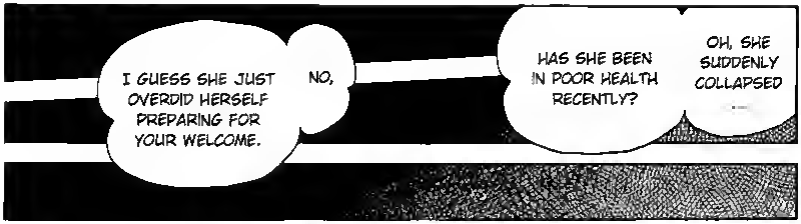
VRRRRRRM
SAY DARLING,
IS MY MAKEUP TOO THICK?
YOUR MOTHER REALLY HATES IT TOO LOUD.
OH, A SPOT OF DIRT.
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, HANAKO.
I MEAN FROM HERE ON,
MY MOTHER WILL BE LIVING WITH US.

SO WE COULD FINALLY BUY OUR OWN HOUSE
I MEAN YOUR MOTHER IS LOANING US THE DEPOSIT,
Residential Real Estate
Real Estate Guide
IT'S FINE, I'M JUST KEEN TO GET ALONG
SO JUST ACT NORMALLY OR YOU'LL OVERDO YOURSELF.
THEN I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT THE PERFECT HOME, FREE FROM ANY SPECS OF DUST!
ALL SO WE CAN ESCAPE THESE SCUMMY, CRAMPED LITTLE APARTMENTS!
SERIOUSLY, JUST ACT NORMALLY...
ピンポーン
AH.
(SFX) DING DONG

WELCOME HOME, MOTHER-!
どたた
YOU'RE EARLY, MOM.

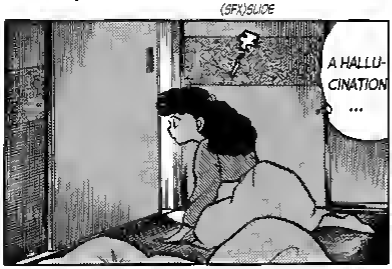
4

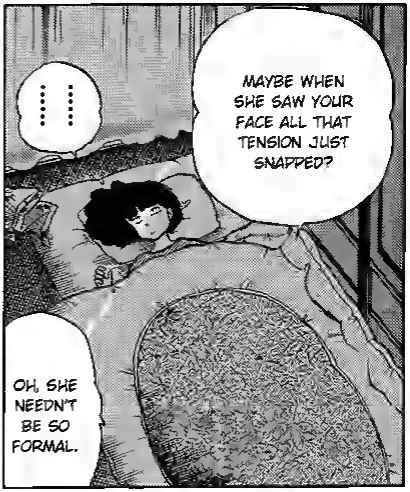
(SFX) LOOM
ああい
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, HANAKO

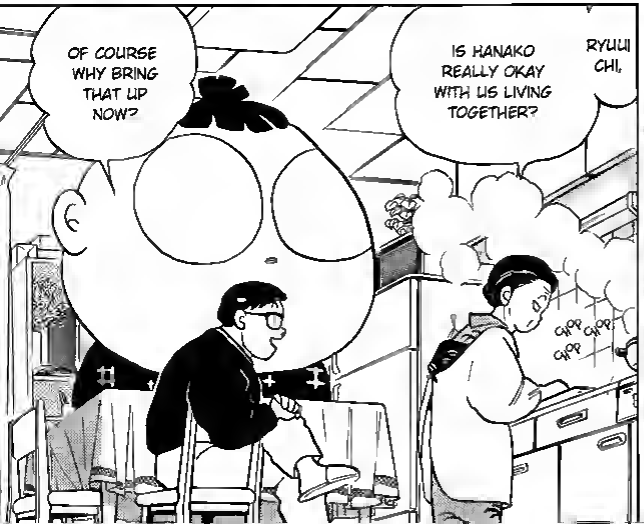

OH, SHE SUDDENLY COLLAPSED
HAS SHE BEEN IN POOR HEALTH RECENTLY?
NO,
I GUESS SHE JUST OVERDID HERSELF PREPARING FOR YOUR WELCOME.

WHAT WAS THAT BEFORE ...?

(SFX)SLIDE

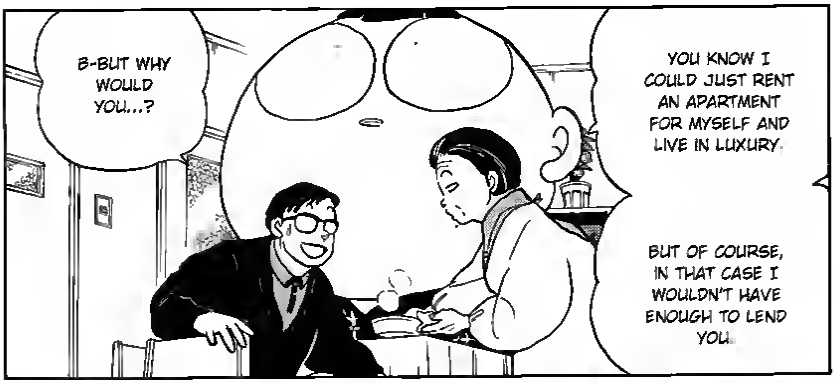

A HALLU-CINATION ...


MAYBE WHEN SHE SAW YOUR FACE ALL THAT TENSION JUST SNAPPED?
.....
OH, SHE NEEDN'T BE SO FORMAL.


OF COURSE WHY BRING THAT UP NOW?
IS HANAKO REALLY OKAY WITH US LIVING TOGETHER?
RYUU! CHI,
CHOP CHOP CHOP

...OR NOT!!

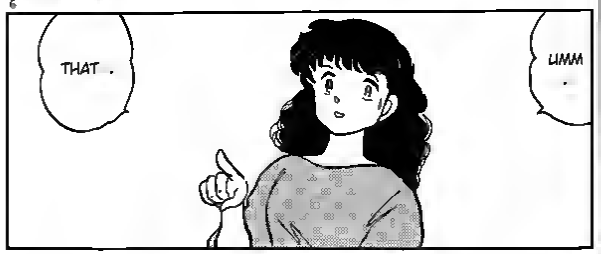
GLANCE
I MEAN IF SHE'S GOING TO BEGRUDGINGLY LIVE TOGETHER
JUST FOR THE SAKE OF A DEPOSIT LOAN, THEN...


B-BUT WHY WOULD YOU...?
YOU KNOW I COULD JUST RENT AN APARTMENT FOR MYSELF AND LIVE IN LUXURY.
BUT OF COURSE, IN THAT CASE I WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO LEND YOU.

AH, HANAKO-SAN, FEELING BETTER? YOU'RE UP ALREADY.
AH.
UMM...

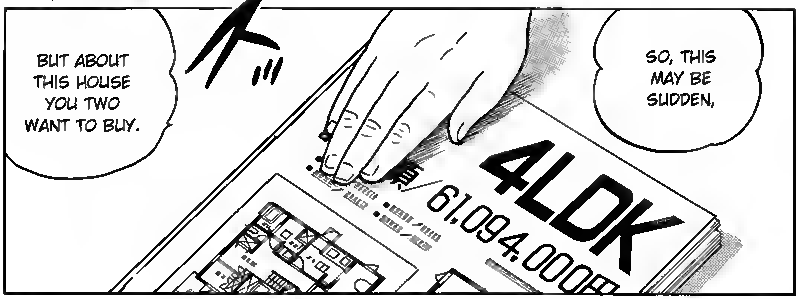
I WONDER IF THEY CAN'T SEE IT...?
THOSE TWO...

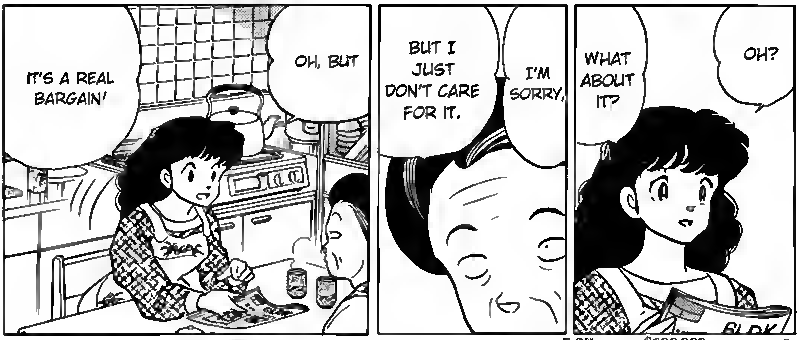
6


THAT.
UMM.

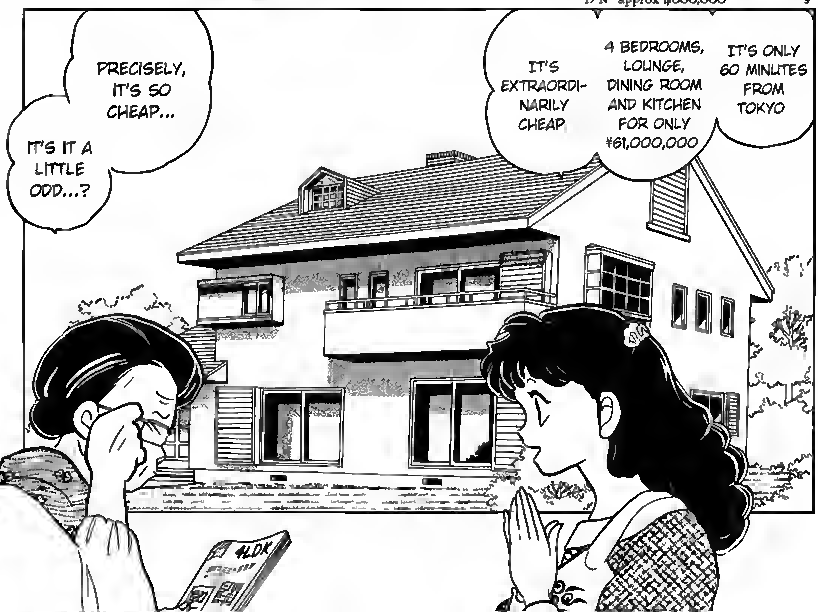
EH...?
WHAT?
THAT...?
7
THEY CAN'T SEE IT...
AH, NOTHING
SEE YOU LATER.
WELL, TAKE CARE.
ガチャ
(SFX) CLICK

HE'S GONE.
NOT HERE
SHE DIDN'T EVEN SEE HIM OFF.
GOOD GRIEF ...
SHUT
HANAKO-SAN..
MUST'VE JUST IMAGINED IT....
PHEW
B
I-INDEED, MOTHER.
I THINK WE SHOULD JUST SAY IT DIRECTLY.
IF WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE OTHER,
WELL ANYWAY,
SINCE WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER ALL DAY,

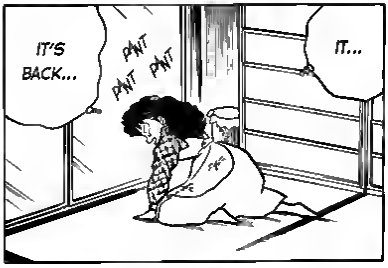




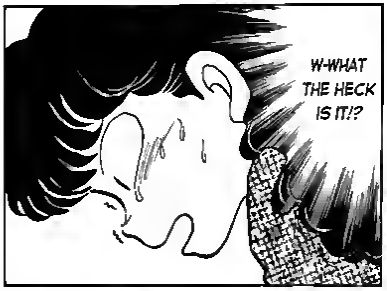
T/N* approx $600,000


PRECISELY, IT'S SO CHEAP...
IT'S IT A LITTLE ODD...?
IT'S EXTRAORDINARILY CHEAP
4 BEDROOMS, LOUNGE, DINING ROOM AND KITCHEN FOR ONLY ¥61,000,000
IT'S ONLY 60 MINUTES FROM TOKYO
4LDK

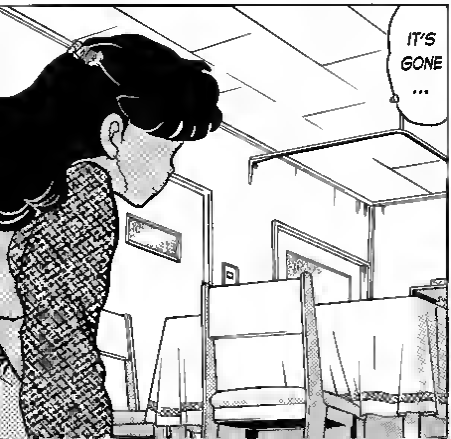
THIS WAS THE BEST OUT OF ALL OF THEM...
OH, BUT WE'VE ALREADY SEEN ENOUGH
HMM, WOULDN'T IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO CHECK A FEW MORE PLACES...?
I'M THE ONE PAYING THE DEPOSIT...
BE THAT AS IT MAY,
AND UNTIL I'M SATISFIED...


IT'S BACK...
PANT PANT PANT
IT...

(SFX) RUNNING
Aaaaargh!!
EH?

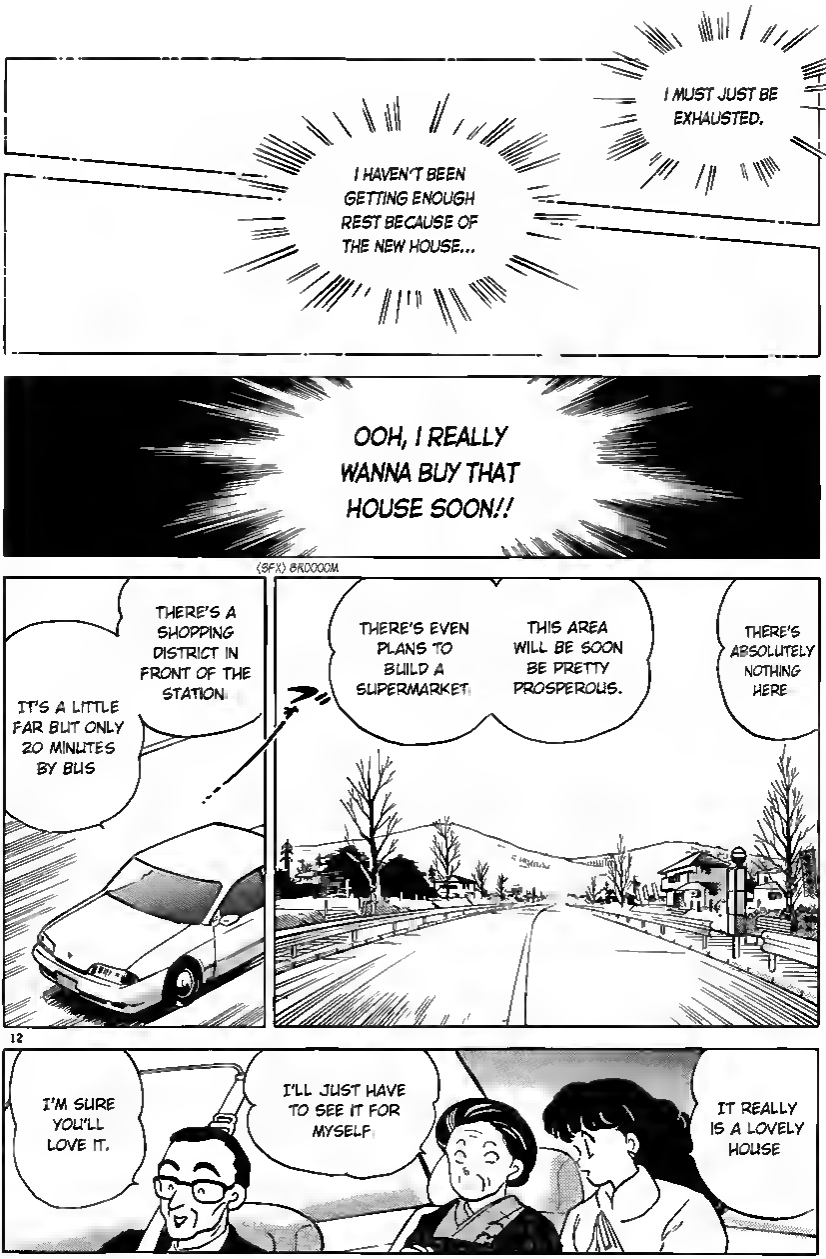

W-WHAT THE HECK IS IT!?

ACK.
I NEVER SAID I WOULDN'T PAY THE MONEY.
IT'S NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT, IS IT?
HEY HANAKO-SAN,

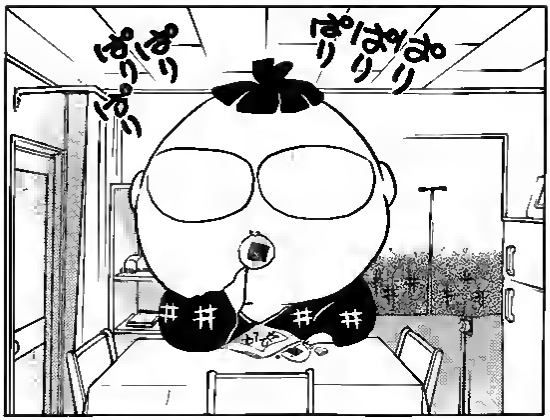

IT'S GONE ...

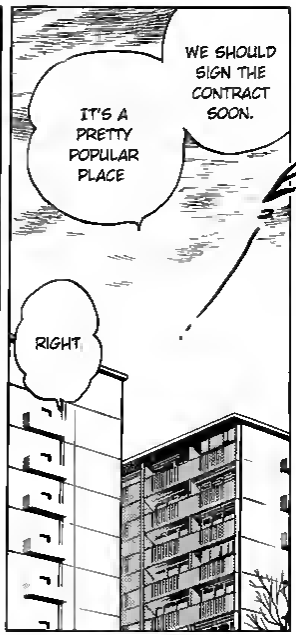
CREEP

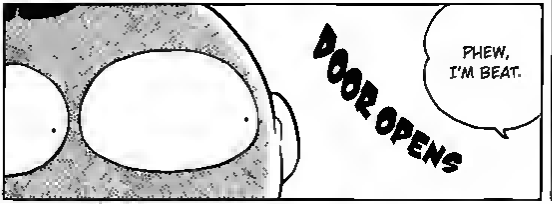
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT..
OH NO,


I MUST JUST BE EXHAUSTED.
I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH REST BECAUSE OF THE NEW HOUSE...
OOH, I REALLY WANNA BUY THAT HOUSE SOON!!
(SFX) BROOOOM
IT'S A LITTLE FAR BUT ONLY 20 MINUTES BY BUS
THERE'S A SHOPPING DISTRICT IN FRONT OF THE STATION
THERE'S EVEN PLANS TO BUILD A SUPERMARKET
THIS AREA WILL BE SOON BE PRETTY PROSPEROUS.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HERE
12
I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE IT.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF
IT REALLY IS A LOVELY HOUSE

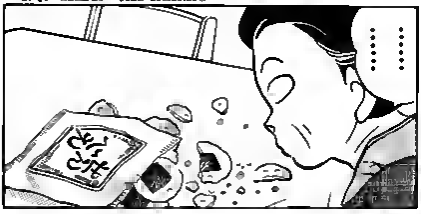
ISN'T THE HOUSE GREAT?
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
OOH.
13
IT'S NOT SO BAD.
HMM,
AND LOOK HOW THE BAY WINDOWS MAKE THE ROOM SEEM BIGGER...
IT'S GOT PLENTY OF STORAGE SPACE...
IT GETS GOOD SUNLIGHT,
GREAT!!

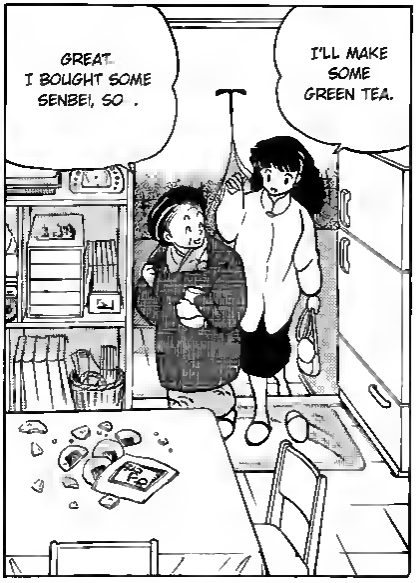






T/N* senbei = rice crackers





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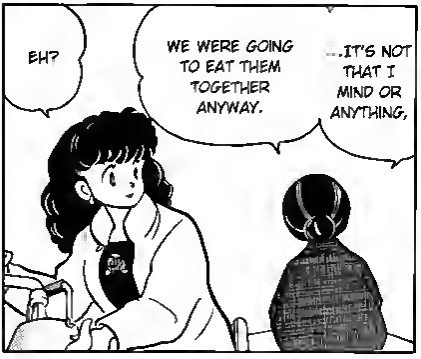
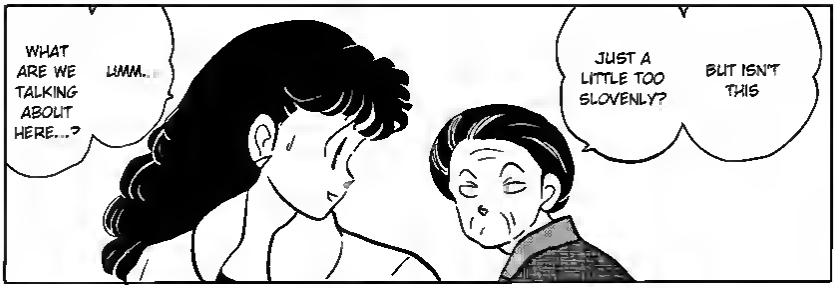
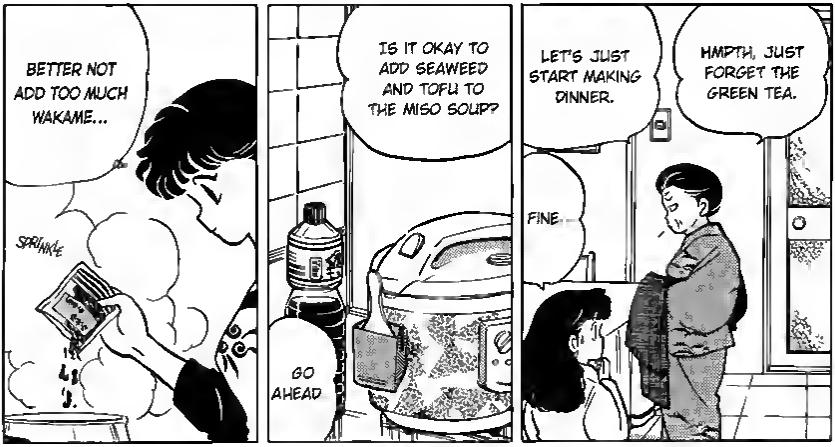
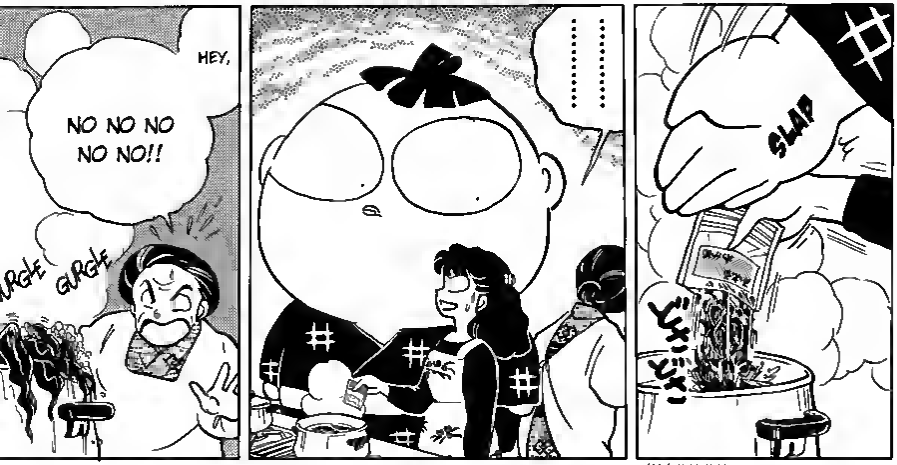



WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE...?
HMM...
JUST A LITTLE TOO SLOVENLY?
BUT ISN'T THIS


BETTER NOT ADD TOO MUCH WAKAME...
SPRINKLE
IS IT OKAY TO ADD SEAWEED AND TOFU TO THE MISO SOUP?
GO AHEAD
LET'S JUST START MAKING DINNER.
FINE.
HMPTH, JUST FORGET THE GREEN TEA.

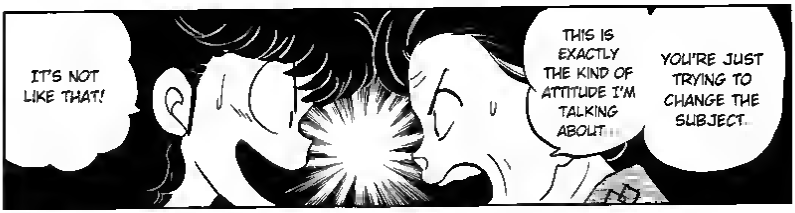
15

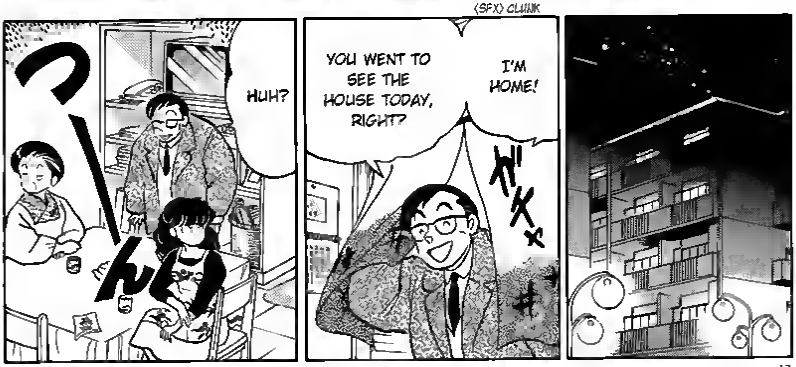

HEY,
NO NO NO NO NO!!
GURGLE
GURGLE
.....
SLAP
(SFX) GLUG GLUG

HANAKO-SAN
B-BUT I DIDN'T DO IT...
HMPTH, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT.
DRIED WAKAME REALLY EXPANDS A LOT WHEN WET.
ビタ
I GUESS NOTHING CAN BE DONE
FOR YOUR MESSINESS AND IGNORANCE
THEN WHEN DO YOU THINK YOUR FAULTS WILL IMPROVE
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE ADVICE TO HEART,
SCOOP
SCOOP
SCOOP
BUT YOUR ATTITUDE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
16
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN
MEMO
THIS THING ANYWHERE?
MOTHER!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?
ばっ

(SFX) TADA

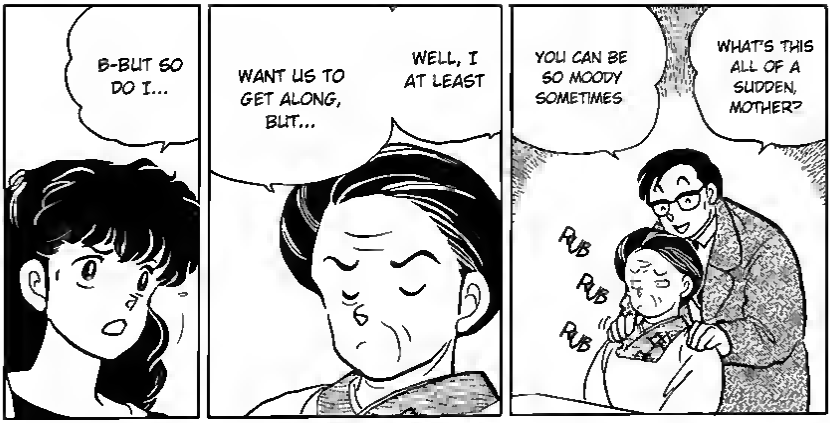
BUT I DREW IT EXACTLY HOW IT IS...
WHAT IS THIS SCRIBBLE?


IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF ATTITUDE I'M TALKING ABOUT!!
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

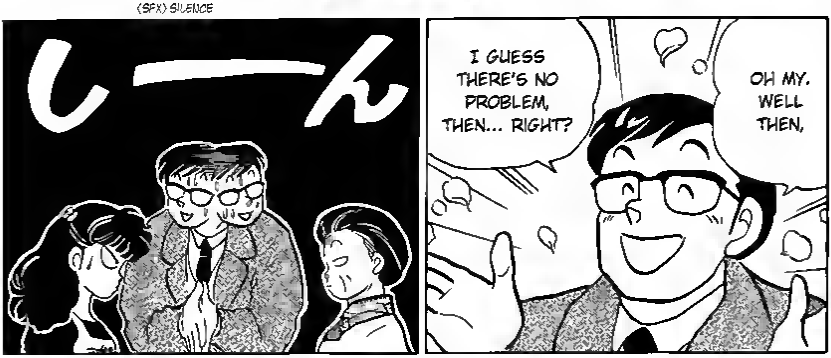

(SFX) ANGRY
HUH?
(SFX) CLUNK
I'M HOME!
YOU WENT TO SEE THE HOUSE TODAY, RIGHT?

17

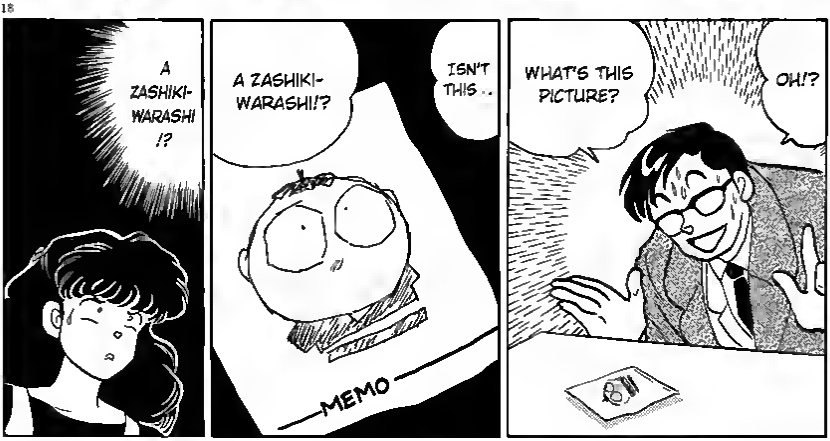
WHAT...?
I WONDER IF IT'D BE BETTER TO LIVE FREELY BY MYSELF...
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WELL, THE HOUSE WASN'T SO BAD, BUT...

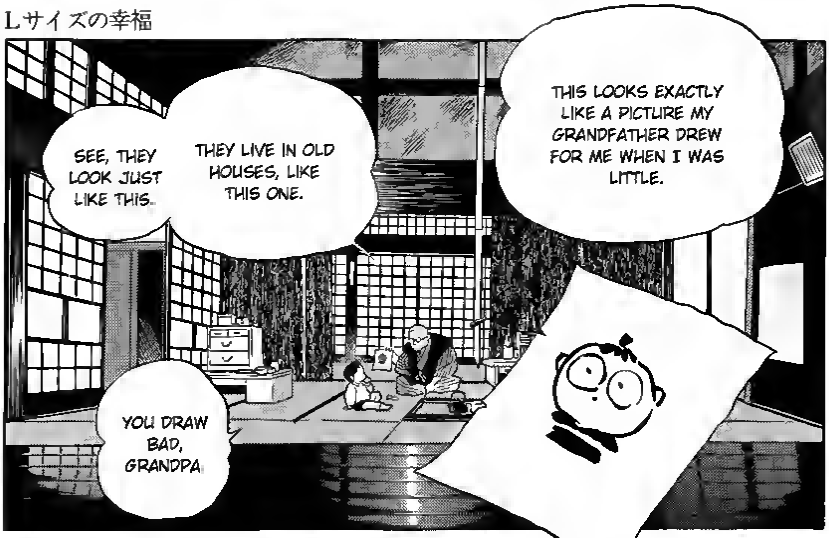

WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN, MOTHER?
YOU CAN BE SO MOODY SOMETIMES
RUB RUB RUB
WELL, I AT LEAST WANT US TO GET ALONG, BUT...
B-BUT SO DO I...

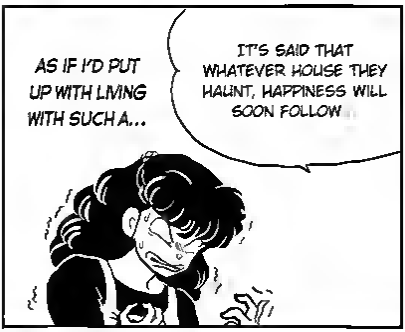
(SFX) SILENCE

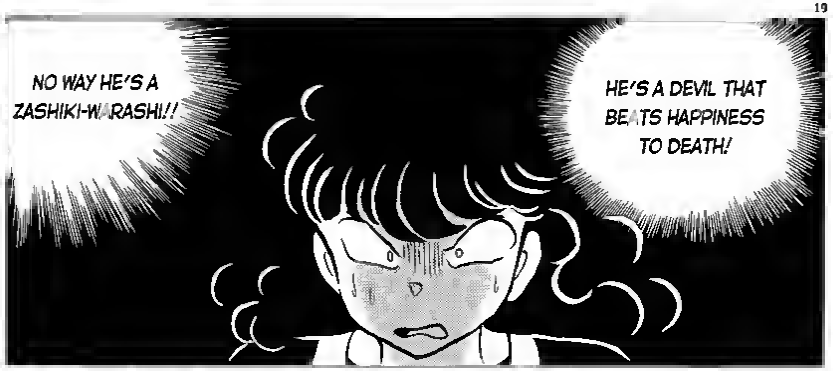


18




SEE, THEY LOOK JUST LIKE THIS.
THEY LIVE IN OLD HOUSES, LIKE THIS ONE.
THIS LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE A PICTURE MY GRANDFATHER DREW FOR ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
YOU DRAW BAD, GRANDPA.



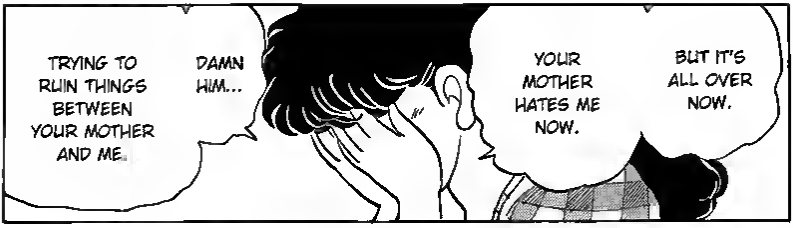


T/N[8] Zashiki warashi are a type of Youkai (Japanese monster) These spirits are mischievous in nature but can bring good fortune

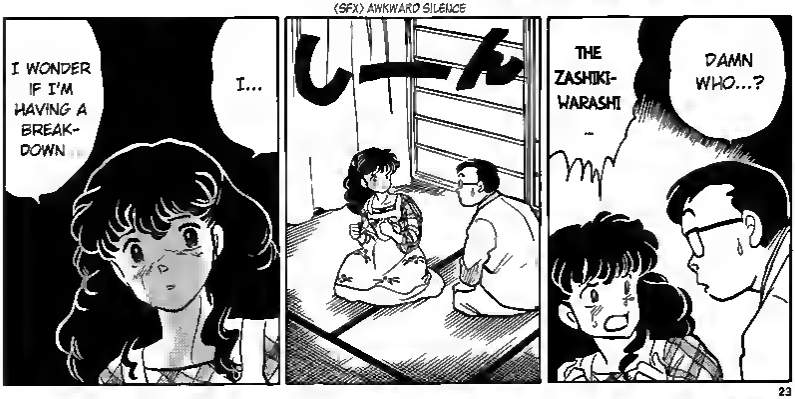
(SFX) BRING BRING
I'm afreid if I don't receive your deposit soon, then...
AH, UMM...
Another buyer is interested in that house.
EH?
OH, THE REAL ESTATE AGENT!
HELLO.
A-ANYWAY, GIVE ME 2 OR 3 DAYS TO GET IT PREPARED...
AH, ERM NOTHING!
SHAKE SHAKE
SHOO! SHOO!
ACK!
UNDERSTOOD!! I'LL GETTING THE DEPOSIT TO YOU SOO-
TUG
TWIST

YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS!!
QUIT HANGING AROUND HERE!!
NO. NOT YOU MOTHER!!
AH...
I'M SUCH A BOTHER
WELL, I'M SORRY
21
I'M HOME ♪
(SFX) CLICK

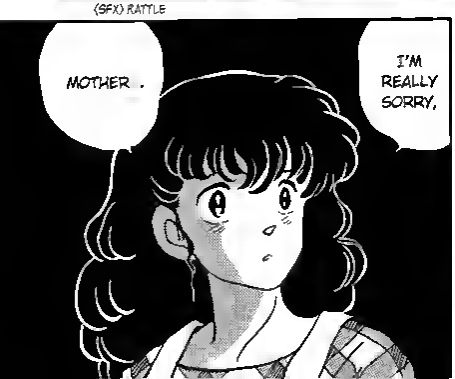
(SFX) HEAVY MOOD
I'VE DECIDED.
I'LL LIVE ALONE
YOU CAN'T HAVE THE MONEY.
HUH-!?
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, MOTHER!
IT'S JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING!
IF I'M THE ONE PAYING THE MONEY I DON'T WANT TO BE TREATED AS A NUISANCE!
HMPH.
JUST- JUST HANG ON FOR A MINUTE
WAAAAH
22
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU GET ALONG WITH HER?
I DID.
JUST WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED, HANAKO?



(SFX) AWKWARD SILENCE



(SFX) RATTLE



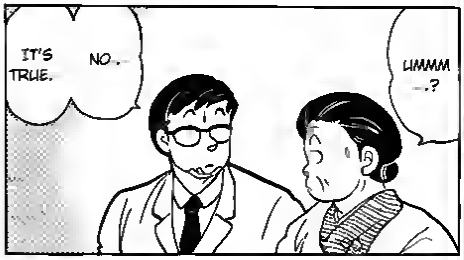
(SFX) SIGH
IT'S BECAUSE I LEFT ALL THE HOUSE SEARCHING AND SO ON UP TO YOU...
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED HANAKO...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...
NO, I'M FINE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST..
BEFORE THAT,
THERE'RE ONLY THREE OF US IN THIS FAMILY AFTER ALL
HEY MOM, DON'T BE SO MAD.
WILL CHANGE THE MOOD
MAYBE MOVING TO A BIG PLACE
LET'S ALL LIVE TOGETHER HAPPILY.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT..
THAT'S ...
24
(SFX) TAP
ALL RIGHT.

!
EH?
LET'S GET THAT HOUSE.
BUY THE HOUSE...?
WE CAN...
25
じ～ん
ONCE I MOVE I WON'T SEE THAT MONSTER ANYMORE.
I'M SO HAPPY.
HURRY, DARLING.
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO MEET THE REAL ESTATE AGENT.
IT STILL FEELS LIKE A DREAM.
WHAT!?
(SFX) SPLASH

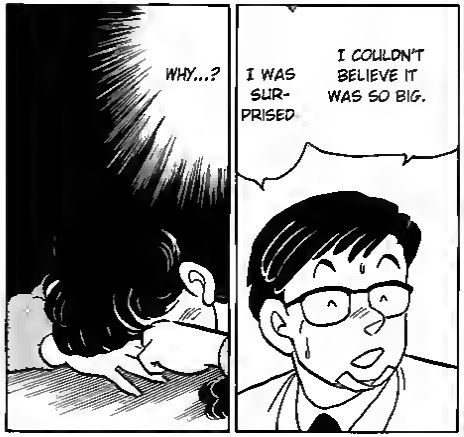
Eeeeeeh!?
……
25
(SFX) (SIRENS) NEE NAW NEE NAW

OH YOUR POOR THING.
UP UNTIL NOW WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH THE POLICE AND BEEN TO HOSPITAL..
WE HIT A GUARD-RAIL.
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO...!?
OH, BUT FIRST YOUR INJURIES...
ARE YOU OKAY!?
I'M SORRY... WE MISSED THE APPOINT-MENT..
AHHH, WELL...
HOW DID YOU CRASH...?
27
IT WAS HIM...

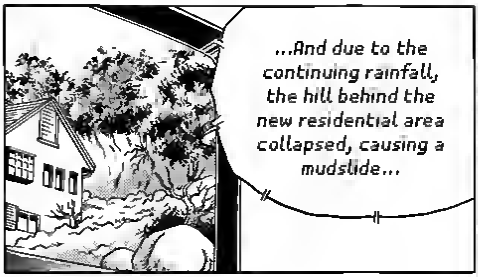
(SFX) WAAAAH!
わ～ん


IT'S TRUE.
NO.
UMMM...?

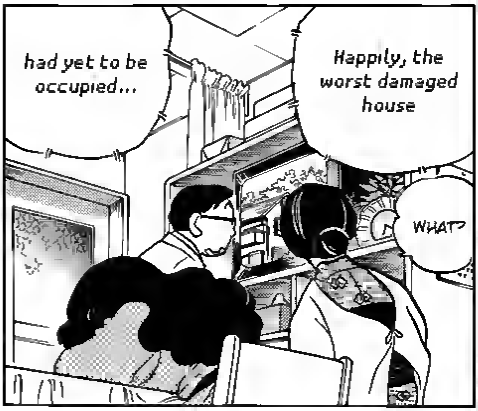
28

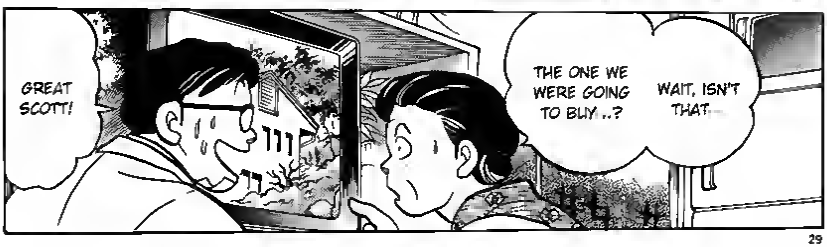

WHY...?
I WAS SUR-PRISED
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS SO BIG.

THAT DAMN ZASHIKI-WARASHI BLOCKED THE WAY!!


...And due to the continuing rainfall, the hill behind the new residential area collapsed, causing a mudslide...

WHY WOULD IT GET IN THE WAY OF OUR HAPPINESS?


had yet to be occupied...
Happily, the worst damaged house
WHAT?


GREAT SCOTT!
THE ONE WE WERE GOING TO BUY ..?
WAIT, ISN'T THAT...

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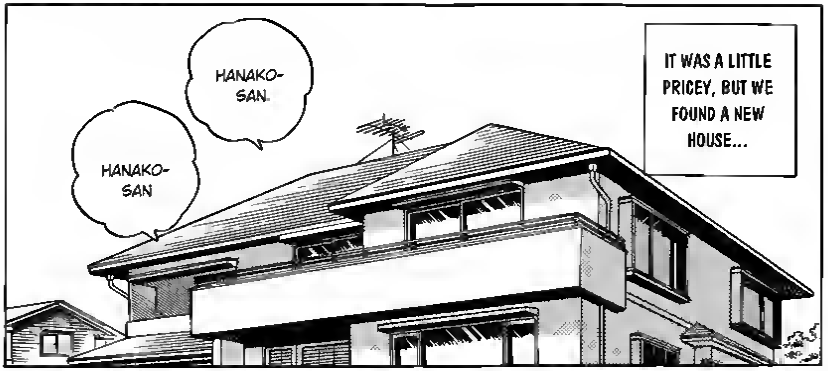
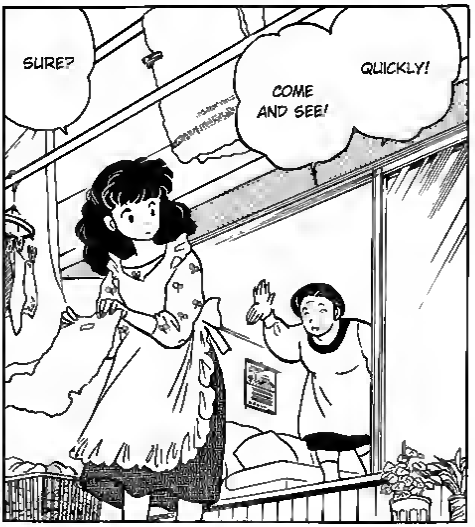
WOW.
NO, THAT'S DEFINITELY IT, NO DOUBT.

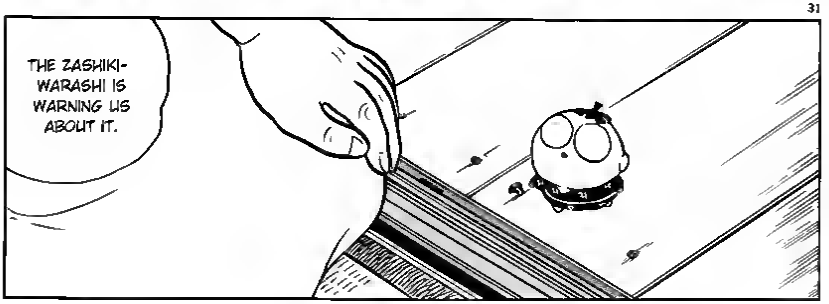
SO
THAT'S
WHY...
SINCE
THAT DAY...
I HAVEN'T SEEN
ZASHIKI-
WARASHI-SAMA.
30
AS FOR
US...

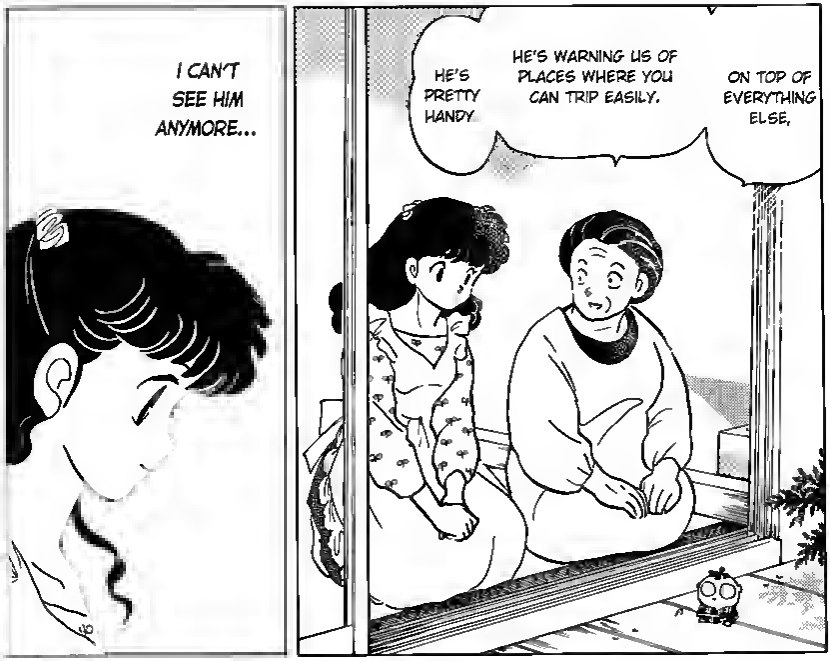

HANAKO-SAN.
HANAKO-SAN
IT WAS A LITTLE PRICEY, BUT WE FOUND A NEW HOUSE...

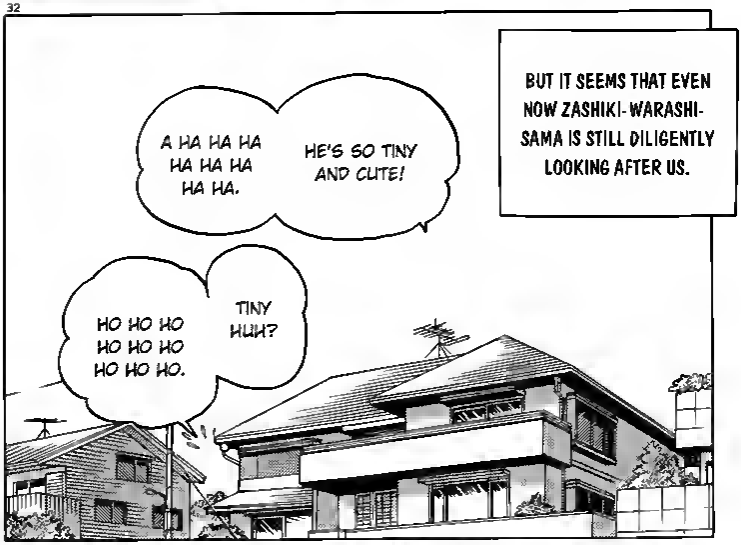
THERE'S A NAIL DANGEROUSLY STICKING OUT.
LOOK HERE


SURE?
COME AND SEE!
QUICKLY!

31

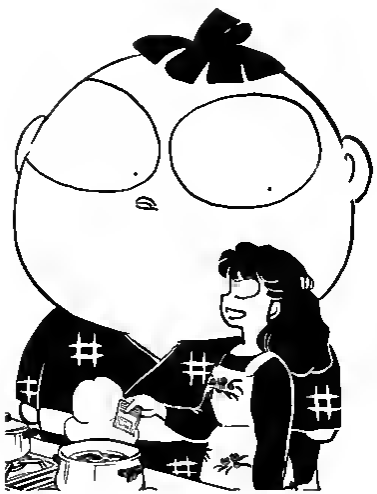

THE ZASHIKI-WARASHI IS WARNING US ABOUT IT.




BUT IT SEEMS THAT EVEN NOW ZASHIKI-WARASHI-SAMA IS STILL DILIGENTLY LOOKING AFTER US.
A HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA.
HE'S SO TINY AND CUTE!
HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO HO.
TINY HUH?

TAKAHASHI RUMIKO - RUMIC THEATER [P NO HIGEKI] -END-

【初出一覧】
「Pの悲劇」▶「ビッグコミックオリジナル」1991年2月20日号
「浪漫の商人」▶「ビッグコミックオリジナル」1997年7月20日号
「ボイの家」▶「ビッグコミックオリジナル」1992年2月20日号
「鉢の中」▶「ビッグコミックオリジナル」1989年5月20日号
「百年の恋」▶「ビッグコミックオリジナル」1993年2月20日号
「Lサイズの幸福」▶「ビッグコミックオリジナル」1990年1月20日号



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